

# GIGANTIC LABOR WAR IMMINENT.

Lockout of Steam Fitters May Stop All Building for the Summer.

EVERY TRADE MAY JOIN.

Walking Delegates Declare the Steam Fitters Shall Have Full Support.

EMPLOYERS ON THE AGGRESSIVE.

Not Unlikely That They Will Precipitate the Conflict by a Monster Lockout of Their Workmen.

There may be no building done in New York this Summer.

A strike is impending, which will put a stop to all construction, and withdraw millions of dollars from circulation.

When the work-bell sounded yesterday morning, about 3,000 men in the big steam-fitting shops in different parts of the city failed to answer.

It was strike or a lockout, according to viewpoint. Only one trade was concerned. The number of men involved was small. Their retirement from work was without noise or ostentation. But men who have watched the progress of the trouble, of which this is the culmination, were serious.

They knew what it meant. It was that the Building Trades are ready to join issue with the Walking Delegates' Board, and endeavor to break the power of that organization over the trades.

Thus, at the very opening of the building season, and with hundreds of houses planned for construction, the trades stand upon the verge of one of the most extensive strikes known for years.

Yesterday's action was only an opening gun. Within a week, unless means of reconciliation are speedily found and put into operation, there will be general suspension of work in every branch of building, and between 30,000 and 60,000 workmen standing idle.

**Much in Little.**  
To all appearances the lockout of the steam fitters was merely an outgrowth of the strike which has been for some time in progress on the Columbia College buildings. Men who view it in a broader light declare that these difficulties have been made an excuse for arbitrary action on the part of the employers.

The story of the troubles of which a stupendous and protracted labor war may be the result is very briefly told. The Johnson Temperature Regulating Company, proprietors of a patent device for the regulation of heat in buildings, employed plumbers to do the work necessary to putting in their apparatus.

The steam fitters contended that the work came properly within their sphere and not in that of the plumbers, who are not represented in the Delegates' Board. The Enterprise Association of Steam Fitters and the Progressive Association of Helpers and the Board of Walking Delegates initiated the strike at Columbia College and on other buildings where the Johnson apparatus was being put in.

Several days ago it was agreed to submit the matter to Bishop Potter for arbitration, and last night was fixed upon for the hearing.

**Articles of War.**  
When the steamfitters received their pay envelopes last Saturday, they found enclosed, along with their hard-earned dollars, this formal notice:

Inasmuch as the agreement between the Master Fitters' Association and the Enterprise Association of Steam Fitters has been violated by the Johnson Temperature Regulating Company, the Master Fitters' Association has declared the said fitters' Association null and void. Therefore, each and every steam fitter or steam fitter's helper who wishes to continue to work on any building under contract to the Johnson Temperature Regulating Company, must sign a new contract before going to work.

The answer to this, mandate was not made by letter. All day Sunday conferences were being held, and when Monday morning came the bosses who had thus flown in the face of the arbitration agreement found themselves without men. The battle was on.

Pickets were stationed in the neighborhood of the various shops. The remainder of the men gathered early in the morning at the Central Hall, No. 147 West Thirty-second street, where a general meeting had been called for 11 o'clock. These are the firms whose men figured at that gathering: G. A. Suter & Co., Wooster street, 450 men; Baker, Smith & Co., Houston street, and West Broadway, 300; Gillis & Goehring, 537-9 West Broadway, 250; Rutledge & Co., Centre street, near Canal, 160; Willis & Newton, Forsyth street, 120; Blake & Williams, 302-4 West Broadway, 60; Evans & Almdal, 41 West street, 30; James Curran Manufacturing Company, West Third street, 20; Frank Dobson, West Forty-second street, 30; The Mercer Company, 127 Centre street, 10.

**To Break Them.**  
Fully 700 men crowded in and about the hall at the hour appointed. Among them there was only one interpretation of the bosses' action. It was, they agreed, only an attempt to break their organization. One of them said: "They have found an opportunity and have improved it. Last Tuesday an invitation was sent to the fitters and helpers to send a committee on Thursday afternoon to meet a similar delegation from the Masters' organization. Our regular meetings are held on Thursday nights, so we could not choose a delegation on time. But on Friday a communication was sent to the Masters. The first sign of an answer we had from them was the notice we received on Saturday."

"Their scheme is very plain. If they can drive us into signing their agreements, and so establish a ground of individual relations, they can use us as they please, and that will be done too well. We would have to take what they chose to give us, then. The plumbers have been trenching upon our field of work for a long time. They succeeded in getting the better of the gasfitters and want to do the same thing to us. The reason the Masters prefer plumbers' work is plain enough. It is cheaper."

No specific action was taken at the Central Hall meeting, but William J. O'Brien, president of the Board of Delegates, declared that the steam fitters would have the support of every trade represented by the Board.

The Master Fitters' Executive Committee held a meeting at their offices in the Wool Exchange in West Broadway, through

Secretary Henry B. Gombers a statement was made. It says, in part:

As to the settlement of this question between plumbers and fitters, the master steam fitters have not taken part in any way, considering it purely a matter to be settled between unions.

Master steam fitters, on their part, claim that the Enterprise Association of Steam Fitters has broken the agreement by causing a general strike against the master steam fitters without first submitting the question at least to a committee of arbitration, as provided in the agreement.

There is no question of wages or hours of labor involved in the controversy; neither is there any lockout, as the members of the Master Steam and Hot Water Fitters Association are ready to employ any of their old men who are willing to go to work and not subject their employers to frequent annoyance and loss on account of petty squabbles between their unions over which they have no control.

Secretary Gombers said to a Journal reporter that so far as he knew no men had made application to be taken back under the proposed agreement.

"This step will involve all buildings where the master steam fitters have contracts, will it not?" he was asked. He paused before replying. The Master Fitters' Association controls more than three-quarters of the steam-fitting work done in New York. Finally he said:

"It may involve more than that."

"Will the United Building Trades take aggressive action in the matter?"

"They may; I cannot say."

**Ready for a Big Fight.**

There is every indication that, as Secretary Gombers hinted, the United Building Trades will take up the cudgels, to offset the sympathetic strike which is threatened by the Delegates' Board. The swift fashion in which the Master Fitters have forced the issue is evidence enough that the bosses in all the trades are ready for a fight of magnitude. F. A. Williams, of the Executive Committee of the Master Fitters, said:

"This is the time for us to act. This is the dull part of the year, the time when we can stand a strike best, and there will be no difficulty about getting men if we want them."

This feeling of confidence is explained by the fact that at the Building Trades' Club, No. 117 East Twenty-third street, there was a conference of several mason builders yesterday afternoon. That the United Building Trades were considering the advisability of coöperative action was admitted by more than one man who figures in the membership.

Charles A. Cowen, one of the most prominent builders in the city, said immediately after leaving the clubhouse:

"There has been no action taken by the United Building Trades. What will be done, I cannot say. I am one of the Board of Mediation and Conciliation, which meets to-night with Bishop Potter, but the outcome of that meeting, of course, cannot be foretold."

"Has any meeting of the Building Trades been called?"

Mr. Cowen hesitated. "There will be," he said at last. "a meeting of the Master Builders to-morrow night, at 8 o'clock, at the Building Trades' Club. It is a special meeting, and was called at the request of Secretary Gombers, who has the contacts on the Columbia College buildings. Their representative will present to the association a statement concerning the condition of affairs there."

"Will the Building Trades take aggressive action in this matter?"

"We have no antagonism toward the workmen. We have gotten on for ten years without any trouble with the Bricklayers' Union. But I am against the Walking Delegates, publicly and privately. He is an injury to the trade, to commerce and to the workmen."

**The Board Their Foe.**

This was the talk in the clubhouse. It is against the Delegates' Board that the battle will be waged, if it be waged at all. This is the fight they are arming for.

The delegates were in session all yesterday afternoon at the rooms of East Fifty-ninth street. Of what they did nothing is known, save that Delegates O'Connell, of the Varnishers; Whitford, of the Electrical Workers; and Nugent, of the Steam Fitters, were chosen to represent the Board at the arbitration meeting. The Plumbers' representatives were Matthew F. Murray, James Crotty and Thomas Christie.

One of the delegates said after the meeting: "If I think the Board of Delegates has been led into a trap in this matter, I do not think it is a good time to enter upon a strike over so small a matter. This is a domestic work, over which a trouble arose, amounted only to keeping eight men steadily employed the year round."

The Committee of the Board of Walking Delegates and the Plumbers' Association met at No. 20 Lafayette place at 8 o'clock last night behind closed doors. Bishop Potter was there to advise and assist them in their deliberations.

After a conference of two hours it was announced that the committee of the Board of Walking Delegates had been appointed merely to notify Bishop Potter that the Board was willing to meet a committee of No. 20 Lafayette place at 8 o'clock.

A delegate of the plumbers said as he went out: "The Board of Walking Delegates wants to evade arbitration."

The Mason Builders' Association will meet to-night at the Building Trades' Club, No. 117 East Twenty-third street. Important action is expected.

**CONNECTICUT'S FAST DAY.**

Governor of the Nutmeg State Issues His Annual Proclamation.

Hartford, Conn., March 29.—Governor Cooke issued his fast day proclamation today as follows:

In harmony with the custom and laws of this State and the practice of God-fearing ancestry who sought the favor and help of the Lord, I hereby designate and appoint Friday, the 31st day of April, next, as a day of fasting and prayer, and I recommend that the day be appropriately observed in the homes and in the places of worship in this State, and that confession with devout petition be offered to almighty God that He will continue His mercies to our nation and commonwealth.

LORRIN A. COOKE.

**HOW TO DETECT IT.**

Some Valuable Hints Regarding the Grippe—Signs of Its Approach and How to Counteract Them.

The discussion as to the cause of the Grippe is, of course, interesting, but gives little satisfaction to its unfortunate victims. Whether caused by microbe or vagaries of the weather, its ravages continue, and the country still bends under the scourge.

It cannot be too strongly impressed on people that, in order to ward off the disease, warning symptoms must be regarded and prompt action taken. It becomes extremely difficult to dislodge the disease if allowed to take its course. Hence its name. It generally commences with a slight headache, or pains in the small of the back or limbs. It does not always give one as plain a hint as that a feeling of tightness across the forehead, buzzing in the ears, or peculiar feeling about the eyes, may be all the caution one gets, so it is culpable carelessness to neglect even these slight signs.

The remedy lies in a stimulant, and the preference should be given to whiskey. All the doctors of the country are agreed on this point, but are very careful to impress on their patients the fact that pure whiskey alone must be taken. Duffy's Pure Malt Whiskey is the purest on the market, and can be readily obtained at all drug stores.

There are many imitators who say their whiskey is "just as good." Do not be deceived. They are not. Duffy's Pure Malt is the only medicinal one.

Locked Out Steamfitters Addressed by a Delegate in Central Hall.



## INVENTOR MENACES A WORLD'S MONEY.

Treasury Watch Dogs Alarmed by a French Photographer's Discovery.

ALL BANK-NOTES IN PERIL.

Color Photography Would Enable Counterfeiters to Defy the Detection of Experts.

That ingenious Frenchman who invented the process of photographing in colors, recently described at length in the Journal, has given the Treasury Department of the United States and the Treasury Department of all other countries employing paper currency as part of their circulating medium a feeling of insecurity.

It is recognized by the watch dogs of the treasures of the world that if his invention gets into the hands of counterfeiters the financial system of every nation employing notes as a circulating medium is threatened. Photography has always been the bane of the officials whose business it is to circumvent the ingenious devices of counterfeiters, and for ten years past Secret Service agents the world over have

been watching in fear and trembling for the invention of a process which would reproduce singly or in combination different colors and tints of the solar prism.

"That is just what this French inventor seems to have accomplished," said A. L. Drummond, for years Chief of the United States Treasury Secret Service.

"I haven't seen the process applied, but if the published descriptions in this country and Europe are correct this Frenchman has hit upon something which we have all long feared. If this new invention can photograph the red seals, the check numbers in blue and the other colors employed in engraving bank notes, it would be in the hands of insouciant persons the most dangerous weapon that ever menaced the safety of the world's currency."

Already the counterfeiters are able, by means of photo-engraving processes, to make exact duplicates of the backs of bills, whether they be in green, blue, black or any other color. But the seals and check numbers, printed over the scroll work of the face, in different colors, has hitherto thwarted them. If they photographed the

face of the bill, they were obliged to expunge these seals and check-numbers with acids. These acids naturally ruined the scroll work below the overal colors, leaving a space which the rogues had to re-engrave or put in with brush or pen. The result of such primitive methods were easily detected by experts. But this color-photography opens immense possibilities in the hands of clever men. Given paper of similar quality—and they make paper that would deceive an expert—there is nothing to prevent a skilful operator from producing absolute duplicates in such numbers as he might desire of any bank-note extant in the circulation of the world.

"I understand that our Treasury Department is investigating the possibilities of the new process. They should do so, and so should the Treasury officials of every country using paper money."

At the headquarters of the Eastern division of the United States Secret Service, in the Post Office building, it was said that no information regarding an investigation of the new process of color photography had yet been sent from Washington.

"The French inventor can do what he says," said one of Mr. Hazen's representatives. "Governments should control his invention. It is too dangerous to be allowed to get into general use."

**EXPLODING BOILER'S VICTIM.**

Fireman Instantly Killed and Path Torn Through Brick Walls and Electric Cars.

Elmhurst, N. Y., March 29.—A boiler exploded in the West Side Electric Street Railroad power house this morning about 4:30 o'clock, and houses for nearly a mile around were shaken, while the noise was heard over the entire city. One-half the boiler was blown through two brick walls, two electric cars and about one hundred and fifty feet into an adjacent field, where it was embedded in the earth.

Frank Albry, the fireman, was instantly killed, and the engineer, Philip Ruffelt, had his skull fractured and his leg broken. Two other employees were in the building, but escaped unhurt.

## REED CALMS A TARIFF STORM.

Johnson Becomes Too Obstreperous for Chairman Sherman.

A CHECK TO IMPORTERS.

Republicans Want All Duties After April 2 to Be According to the Dingley Rates.

PROTEST FROM NEW ENGLAND.

Loving and McCall of Massachusetts

Declare That the Woolen and Cotton Schedules Are Too High for the Manufacturers.

Washington, March 29.—Representative Johnson, of Indiana, became obstreperous during the tariff debate to-day, and it required the iron nerve of the Speaker to quiet him. Mr. Sherman, of New York, who temporarily occupied the chair, was not equal to the task, and the incident created great confusion.

The proceedings of the day were marked by several incidents of more than ordinary note. When the House met there were only a score or so of members present, and Mr. Richardson, of Tennessee, blocked all progress on the bill by calling attention to the lack of a quorum. The doors of the House were locked, and the Sergeant-at-Arms and his deputies went out hunting for tardy members, but an hour and twelve minutes were wasted before business could proceed.

Then, when the House was in Committee of the Whole, with Mr. Sherman in the chair, Mr. Johnson broke loose. He was impatient. He had a number of amendments to offer to the bill, and was afraid he would not get a chance, as they would come in at the end. Mr. Johnson entered a protest at some of the "irrelevant discussion," as he termed it, and when ruled out of order refused to take his seat. Before extreme measures were resorted to, however, he quieted down.

**Quelling the Last Straw.**  
A few minutes later Lemuel E. Quigg tried to have a newspaper clipping read, and this was too much. Mr. Johnson took the floor and refused to give it up. Mr. Sherman pounded and Mr. Johnson shouted. Speaker Reed was sent for. Mr. Sherman declared the committee should rise, and he reported the disorder to the Speaker.

Mr. Reed lectured Mr. Johnson and told him he ought to be good. He took occasion also to suggest the same advice to the other members of the House, and then he again turned the gavel over to Mr. Sherman.

But this did not end the troubles of the majority. Mr. Lovering, of Massachusetts, protested against the high rates of duty imposed in the woolen and cotton sched-

ules. He declared that the manufacturers of Massachusetts did not want the high rates, but asked a tariff that would stand. They had no objection, but did not want to be smothered in its embrace. These statements were warmly applauded by the Democrats.

Mr. McCall, Republican, of Massachusetts, also licked on the wool schedule. It required all the tact and skill of several of the Republican leaders to get him quieted. There is a chance, however, that he may have something else to say.

All of this was cheering to the Democratic side. The majority enjoyed it thoroughly, though the delay may make some difference in their getting a vote on the sugar schedule, and the steel tariff paragraph of the bill. Mr. Bailey tried to secure a promise from Mr. Dingley that a chance should be given them to vote on these two matters, but the wily chairman of the Ways and Means Committee would not listen to it.

**How at the Importers.**

The majority of the Ways and Means Committee is discussing the advisability of passing a retroactive amendment to the Dingley bill. The amendment is to be shaped to read that all duties levied after April 2 shall be according to the rates of the new bill, and the tariff of the last August.

Mrs. Daisell, of Pennsylvania; Tawney, of Minnesota, and Grosvenor, of Ohio, have investigated the matter and are thoroughly satisfied that such an amendment would be perfectly legal. It is stated, though, that other members of the majority are not so sure about it, and the amendment may never be presented.

If it is legal, the authority in the house has not the least chance, and it must take this with the rest of the dose. In the Senate, however, it will be different. If the amendment is embodied in the bill it cannot become a law until the bill itself passes, which will be some time in July or August.

If the amendment is sent over to the Senate ahead of the bill, there is no telling when the bill itself will become a law. Debate on the amendment would be precipitated and Senator Allen, of Nebraska, says it would not end before August. With this view of the case, the minority of the House feels that it is safe.

**SUGAR TRUST LOADING UP**

Contracts Already Made to Bring in Over 100,000 Tons Before the Tariff Law is Changed.

Philadelphia, March 29.—The American Sugar Refineries Company, in anticipation of an advance in the duty on sugar, is engaged in an effort to stock up its various plants in this city before the new tariff becomes law. Contracts have been entered into with ship brokers here which will result in over 100,000 tons of various grades of sugar reaching this city before the end of next month.

Eight of the fleet chartered are already on the sea, and the others will be loaded and dispatched from German ports as quickly as possible. The fleet includes the Parathou, Glenmore, Castlemere, Strathnevis, Strathmore, Zanibar, Wakefield, Summerfield, Merriam, Anderson, Parkgate and Ancker.

Some of the ships will sail from Hamburg; the Tuding, Erby Abby and Furries, from Stettin; the Tawerown and Huron, from Danzig; and the Arranmore and Creelton, from Bremen.

**Stolen Historical Papers Found.**

Washington, March 29.—A number of valuable historical papers stolen from the Congressional Library have been recovered in New York. The most valuable was General Braddock's Journal or orderly book, written by his aide, Colonel George Washington, from February to June, 1756. The original of a circular letter of farewell, written by Washington to the Congress of the several States on his retirement from public life, is also in the collection.

The papers recovered include letters from Benedict Arnold, John Adams, Lafayette, Rihon Allen, Monroe, Jefferson, DeWitt Clinton, John Paul Jones and Oliver Wolcott.

## Our Trade IS A Weather Forecast.

Yesterday morning we had a practical demonstration of a betterment of trade conditions; we also had a first-class demonstration of a belief on the part of the housekeepers of Greater New York that we are on the threshold of pleasant and settled weather. It may be superstition on our part, but we have been led to believe by past experience, covering a period of ten years or more, that the living up of trade in our store is a sure harbinger of pleasant Spring weather. The crowds of people who came to our stores yesterday morning simply overwhelmed us. We always have a big force of salespeople regularly employed to wait on the normal trade which we have every business day in the year. Our facilities yesterday, however, in this regard, were not quite adequate to the demands of our customers. We had to reinforce our number of clerks, and all day long the procession kept up, and the demand for the great bargains advertised on Sunday continued. These bargains, however, with us, as the public knows, are not in any sense the kind of bargains offered by nearly every other store that advertises. Our bargains are regular goods, and we make a profit on every one of them. We advertise them so that they will stand out in comparison with the offerings made by other houses, who do not and cannot buy as advantageously as we do. From now on we shall double, almost, our capacity for the transaction of our usual Spring business. It means having our force worked from early morning until midnight, but we are here for this, here to wait on people who have been in the habit of coming to us for years, and we not only desire to serve our old customers promptly, but we want all of our new friends to be served equally as well. In this advertisement to-day there are some extraordinary offerings, and from day to day and week to week you can watch the columns that we buy in the newspapers, and every time several articles will be advertised which every housekeeper in Greater New York and out of it will be interested in. It will be wisdom of the highest order for you to take advantage of the specially advantageous prices which we are enabled to offer the public because of our ability to BUY-OUT and OUT-SELL any other house in the world in our line of business. Come as early in the morning to buy as you can.

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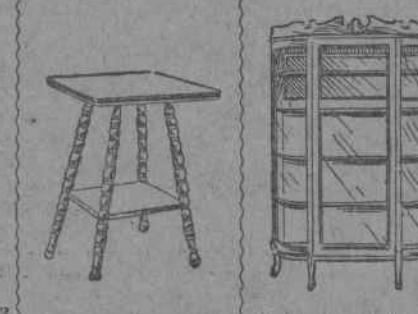
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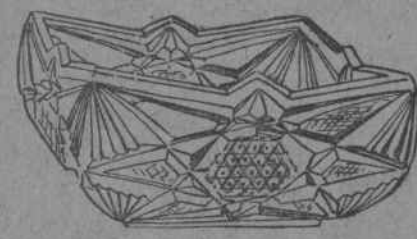


BIRD Gravel. .03  
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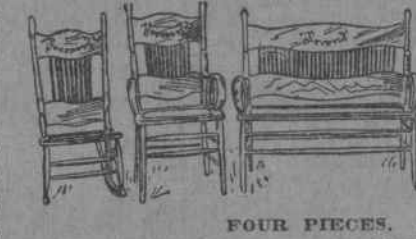
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Borax, large. .10  
Borax, small. .03



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